

CHAPTER 2012-35

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 186

An act relating to misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse programs; amending s. 948.16, F.S.; providing that a person who is charged with a nonviolent, nontraffic-related misdemeanor and identified as having a substance abuse problem or who is charged with certain other designated misdemeanor offenses, and who has not previously been convicted of a felony, may qualify for participation in a misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse program; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 948.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

948.16 Misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program.—

(1)(a) A person who is charged with a nonviolent, nontraffic-related misdemeanor and identified as having a substance abuse problem or who is charged with a misdemeanor for possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia under chapter 893, prostitution under s. 796.07, possession of alcohol while under 21 years of age under s. 562.111, or possession of a controlled substance without a valid prescription under s. 499.03, and who has not previously been convicted of a felony ~~nor been admitted to a pretrial program~~, is eligible for voluntary admission into a misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program, including a treatment-based drug court program established pursuant to s. 397.334, approved by the chief judge of the circuit, for a period based on the program requirements and the treatment plan for the offender, upon motion of either party or the court's own motion, except, if the state attorney believes the facts and circumstances of the case suggest the defendant is involved in dealing and selling controlled substances, the court shall hold a preadmission hearing. If the state attorney establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence at such hearing, that the defendant was involved in dealing or selling controlled substances, the court shall deny the defendant's admission into the pretrial intervention program.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2012.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2012.